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THE FOLLOWING
ACCOUNT OF THE PROGRESS
MADE IN
REBUILDING
THE COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH,
IS EXTRACTED FROM THE
MEDICAL COMMENTARIES
FOR THE YEAR 1790.

IN our last volume, we gave some account of a most important undertaking which was begun at Edinburgh; the rebuilding of the College. We had, at that time, singular satisfaction in being able to mention, that the foundation-stone of this new building was actually laid on the 16th of November 1789: and it now affords us no less pleasure to be able to inform our readers, that the progress made in this undertaking is already very considerable. The walls on the east and north sides of the intended square, are already raised to a considerable height. But the greatest progress

is made at the north-west corner, which is intended for the new Anatomical Theatre. The foundation-stone of this part of the building was laid on the 31st of March last; and a bottle, hermetically sealed, containing the following inscription, was deposited under the foundation-stone by Dr Monro.

THEATRUM HOCCE ANATOMICUM,
CONDITUM EST ANNO ÆR. CHRIST. M.DCC.XC.
DIE M. MARTII 3IMO,
CONSULE THOMA ELDER,
ARCHITECTO ROBERTO ADAM,
MEDICINÆ ANATOMIÆ ET CHIRURGIÆ PROFESSORE,
ALEXANDRO MONRO, M. D.
ALEXANDRI FILIO.

Ab anno 1720 ad annum 1790, Anatomix et Chirurgiæ operam dederant Studiosi 12,800.

Ab anno 1720 ad annum 1759, Professore Alexandro Monro, Patre, 4431.

Ab anno 1759 ad annum 1790, Professore Alexandro Monro, Filio, 8369.

Primo

Primo Decennio, ab anno 1720 ad annum 1730,	
adfuerunt Studiofi	- - - 670
Secundo Dec. ab anno 1730 ad annum 1740,	1090
Tertio Dec. ab anno 1740 ad annum 1750,	1476
Quarto Dec. ab anno 1750 ad annum 1760,	1327
Quinto Dec. ab anno 1760 ad annum 1770,	1942
Sexto Dec. ab anno 1770 ad annum 1780,	2870
Septimo Dec. ab anno 1780 ad annum 1790,	3425

12,800

Hæc, propria manu, scripsit Alexander Monro,
Anatomix et Chirurgix Professor, Die M.
Martii 3^{imo}, Anno P. C. N. 1790, Edinburgi.

In the plan of the new Anatomical Theatre, every attention has been bestowed to afford the utmost possible accommodation for teaching this fundamental branch of the healing art. And although the Anatomical Theatre in which Dr Monro at present teaches, be more commodious than almost any other part of the old College, in consequence of its being an additional detached building, erected only twenty-six years ago, yet his students will hereafter possess many advantages which they have never hitherto enjoyed; for Dr Monro will now be furnished, not only with a com-

modious class-room, but also with excellent preparation-rooms, dissecting-rooms, and many other conveniences. Such is the progress already made in this part of the new College, that the Theatre itself, and all the adjoining buildings connected with it, will certainly be ready for the reception of the students by the commencement of the next Winter Session, in October 1791.

Considerable progress is also made in the building of some of the other medical class-rooms; all of which, according to the plan of the new College, are situated on the north side of the intended square. And, if the Trustees be not disappointed of that aid from the public, which they with some degree of confidence expect will be afforded to an object of such great national utility, the whole of the teaching-rooms intended for the Professors of Medicine, and Medical Philosophy, will be completely finished by the commencement of the Session beginning in October 1792.

As, however, the funds of the University of Edinburgh are totally inadequate to the accomplishment of this undertaking, a voluntary subscription has been set on foot, with the
view

view of aiding it. And it is no inconsiderable proof of the encouragement which Science meets with in the present age, that the sum already subscribed amounts to 18,019l. 3s. 7d. Sterling, and 322 l. 10 s. Jamaica currency. Among the list of subscribers are to be found, not only the names of inhabitants of Edinburgh, and of pupils of the University, but also those of many respectable characters at a distance.

Medical men of the first eminence, have, in particular, been forward in promoting this undertaking. Among others, we may mention the distinguished names of Sir George Baker, Dr Warren, and Mr John Hunter of London, whose example, in different respects, is well worthy the imitation of medical practitioners in general. The early countenance and encouragement given to this undertaking by Drs Wall and Thomson, Medical Professors in the University of Oxford, is a proof, that, among liberal and enlightened minds, no other rivalry exists in Science than what tends to its advancement. We are also informed, on respectable authority, that among others whose good offices have been exerted in support of this undertaking, that
 eminent

eminent philosopher Dr Watson, the present Bishop of Llandaff, deserves to be particularly mentioned.

We have no doubt, that in due time these illustrious examples will be followed by all who are really interested in the advancement of Science. And we cannot more strongly recommend this undertaking to our medical readers, than in the words of a worthy and learned physician, who, in a letter to a correspondent on this subject, expresses himself in the following terms.

“ I have with great pleasure paid into the
 “ hands of Messrs Drummond, my subscrip-
 “ tion for rebuilding the College of Edin-
 “ burgh. I have not the honour to call
 “ Edinburgh my Alma Mater; but I ac-
 “ knowledge obligations to her, in common
 “ with the whole profession of physic. And
 “ I trust, there will not be found a practi-
 “ tioner of any description, who will think
 “ himself so unconnected with the first medi-
 “ cal school in Europe, as to withhold his
 “ assistance on the present occasion.”

It cannot, however, be alleged, that this scheme has met with a warm and cordial re-
 ception

ception from every body. Nor can the coolness of some people at a distance seem wonderful, when it is considered, that not a few opulent inhabitants of Edinburgh, have not yet given any aid to this undertaking; and plausible reasons have not been wanting for their delay. By some it has been alleged, that the former buildings, though many parts of them were confessedly in ruins, and patched up from year to year at a very considerable expence, may yet have done well enough for some time to come; that even supposing a new College to have been absolutely necessary, yet that the plan now adopted is by much too expensive; that this plan cannot be executed for less than one hundred thousand pounds, and that of course it will never be completed; that a great deal of unnecessary expence is intended to be bestowed in erecting splendid houses for all the Professors, and lodgings for students; and that it is folly to think of now erecting any building for the purposes of Science, which can compare with those reared in times of monkish ignorance and arbitrary power, when the craft of priests, or the will
of

of a monarch, could command almost any sum which the subjects possessed.

We need hardly observe, that it must appear to every candid reader, that some of these objections are by no means solid. But it may not be improper to add, that others, which may seem at first sight to be of some weight, are by no means founded in truth.

In place of 100,000 l., the trustees are assured that the whole will be executed for less than 60,000 l. It is no part of the plan, to build rooms for lodging students; and those Professors who formerly resided in the town, must still find lodgings there for themselves. It is indeed intended, that the Principal of the University, and those few Professors who had formerly houses in the College, most of whom teach three or four hours every day, and cannot therefore reside at a distance, shall have houses in the new College, as they had in the old one. But although these houses, viewed altogether, and in conjunction with the public buildings to which they are attached, form an elegant external appearance, yet in reality, each taken by itself, is but a small house; and it is by no means intended, that
they

they shall be finished in an expensive manner.

When it is considered, that nearly one third of the sum necessary for finishing the whole of the building has been subscribed in the space of one year, there is certainly reason to hope, that in no long time, the remainder may be obtained. Those who are ambitious of the name, and entitled to the character, of being Friends to Science, and Citizens of the World, will not be backward in giving some assistance towards the accomplishment of this undertaking. Even the medical pupils of the University alone, now in affluent and independent circumstances in different parts of the British dominions, amount to some thousands; and as we are persuaded, that no set of men retain a more grateful remembrance of the benefits they have derived from their studies at Edinburgh, so we trust that none will show greater exertions in promoting a plan so conducive to the future fame of its University, and to the advancement of Medical Science.

It is the boast of the present age, that at no period in the history of mankind, has Science been more liberally cultivated than at present;
and

and when we reflect, that arbitrary power, and monkish ignorance, have raised many fine fabrics as nurseries of Science, it will certainly be a disgrace to this age, if posterity shall be able to say, that the voluntary contributions of a free and enlightened people could not rear the walls of one College, which, though its buildings, which were always contemptible and inconvenient, have now fallen into a state of absolute ruin, has been long, and of late more than formerly, frequented by a numerous concourse of students, not only from every quarter of the British dominions, but also from many foreign countries.

In a future volume of this Work, it is our intention to publish an Alphabetical List of the Medical Subscribers; and we trust, there will be but few of the respectable pupils of the University of Edinburgh now living, whose names will not appear as aiding her with their countenance and support on the present occasion.

This undertaking is conducted by a respectable body of Trustees, consisting principally of official people at the head of different incorporated bodies about Edinburgh, particularly those

those connected with Divinity, Law, or Physic. Subscriptions are received, and receipts for the money subscribed, are granted, by the different public Banks at Edinburgh; and by Messrs Drummond and Company, Charing-cross, Messrs T. Coutts and Company, in the Strand, and the Honourable Thomas Harley, Cameron and Son, in the city, London.



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